

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for packaging goods in a box, an open-bottomed box erected from a flat-folded configuration to receive at least one good, the open-bottomed box having sidewalls that define a bottom opening and wherein the bottom opening does not have flaps for closing the bottom opening, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a box erecting apparatus for erecting a box to receive at least one good the open-bottomed box from a flat-folded configuration;

(b) an elevator lift apparatus operatively connected below the box erecting apparatus, the elevator apparatus having a first position and a second position wherein the elevator lifts the at least one good from the first position to the second position, the at least one good passing through the bottom opening and into the open-bottomed box; and

(c) a support mechanism operably positioned relative to the box erecting apparatus wherein the support mechanism directly contacts and receives the at least one good after the elevator lifts the at least one good to the second position, the support mechanism supporting the at least one good substantially over the top of the elevator lift apparatus as the elevator lift apparatus returns to the first position to then receive another good to be moved to the second position.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~the box is an open-bottomed box~~ the support mechanism contacts the at least one good during at least a portion of its displacement to the second position.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1, wherein the open-bottomed box is a cardboard box.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 1, further comprising a finishing apparatus for sealing the open-bottomed box, wherein the finishing apparatus is operatively connected to the box erecting apparatus.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a magazine for storing open-bottomed boxes adapted to be erected by the box erecting apparatus.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a labeling apparatus operatively connected to the finishing apparatus.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a first conveyor defining a first conveyor plane positioned to deliver goods to the elevator lift apparatus.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a second conveyor defining a second conveyor plane positioned to transport the goods through the finishing and labeling apparatuses.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the box erecting apparatus comprises at least one suction cup.

10. (withdrawn) An apparatus for packaging goods in an open-bottomed container, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) an elevator lift apparatus for lifting at least one good through a bottom of the open-bottomed container; and
- (b) a support mechanism operatively connected to the elevator lift apparatus for supporting the at least one good in the open-bottomed container.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the support mechanism further acts as a guide mechanism to funnel the goods into the open-bottomed container.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a box erector apparatus to erect an open-bottomed container.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

- (a) a closing mechanism operatively attached to the elevator lift apparatus for closing a top portion of the open-bottomed container; and
- (b) a finishing apparatus operatively attached to the closing mechanism for sealing a top portion of the open-bottomed container.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the support mechanism for the box comprises a first and second support mechanism.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a first conveyer, operatively connected to the elevator lift apparatus, the first conveyer having a starting end and a finishing end.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a second conveyer situated at the finishing end of the first conveyor, the second conveyor positioned on a second conveyer plane.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16, the first conveyer belt further comprising a left belt and a right belt, the left belt and the right belt defining an open space.

18. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the elevator lift apparatus is operatively connected in the open space of the first conveyor at the finishing end, the elevator lift

apparatus having a first position on a plane just lower than the first conveyer plane and having a second position situated generally level with the second conveyer plane.

19. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the second conveyer plane is on a higher level than the first conveyer plane.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a stopping block situated at the finishing end of the first conveyer adapted to stop the goods over the elevator lift apparatus.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a pushing mechanism operatively connected to the first conveyer for pushing the open-bottomed container off of the supporting mechanism onto the second conveyer.

22. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a labeling apparatus operatively connected to the second conveyor.

23. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a guide mechanism operatively connected to the elevator lift apparatus for guiding the goods into the unfolded open-bottomed container.

24. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, the apparatus further comprising a meter mechanism operatively connected to the elevator lift apparatus situated to count the goods moving from the starting end to the finishing end.

25. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the open-bottomed container is a cardboard box.

26. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a cardboard box magazine for storing multiple boxes accessibly positioned to the box erecting apparatus, the box having a first and second minor flap and a first and second major flap.

27. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:

(a) a first flap folding mechanism operatively attached to the first conveyor at the finishing end adapted to fold the first and second minor flaps of the open-bottomed container; and

(b) a second flap folding mechanism operatively attached to the conveyer for folding the first and second major flaps of the open-bottomed container.

28. (withdrawn) A method of packaging goods in a box, the method comprising:

(a) actuating an elevator lift apparatus to raise the goods into the box; and

(b) supporting the goods in the box after the elevator lift apparatus is lowered.

29. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising closing a top portion of the box.

30. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

- (a) providing the goods to be packaged;
- (b) placing the goods on an first conveyor; and
- (c) moving the goods with a first conveyor to a position over the top of the elevator

lift apparatus.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, further comprising counting the goods to confirm the appropriate number.

32. (withdrawn) The method of claim 28, wherein the box is an open-bottomed cardboard box.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30, further comprising sealing a top portion of the box.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

- (a) stacking the sealed boxes enclosing the goods onto a palette; and
- (b) packaging the stacked open-bottomed containers on the palette.

35. (currently amended) A method for packaging goods in an open-bottomed ~~container, box having sidewalls that define a bottom opening and wherein the bottom opening does not have flaps for closing the bottom opening, the method wherein the open-bottomed container is an open-bottomed cardboard box with four upper flaps~~, comprising:

- (a) unfolding the open-bottomed cardboard box;
- (b) holding the unfolded open-bottomed cardboard box above an elevator lift apparatus;
- (c) activating the elevator lift apparatus to raise an at least one good through the bottom opening and into the open-bottomed cardboard box, the elevator lift apparatus moving from a first position to a second position;
- (d) retracting the elevator lift apparatus;
- (e) supporting the at least one good via direct contact between a support member and the at least one good in a position substantially over the top of the elevator lift apparatus while the elevator lift apparatus returns to the first position to then receive at least another good to be moved to the second position; and
- (f) ~~folding the four upper flaps of the open-bottomed cardboard box.~~

36. (previously amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising providing multiple open-bottomed containers by a flat folded cardboard open-bottomed container dispensing apparatus.

37. (withdrawn) A method for delivering goods comprising transporting goods packaged in open-bottomed containers on a palette whereby the goods may be accessed by lifting the open-bottomed container.

38. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support mechanism further comprises a first position and a second position.

39. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the first position is a guide position for guiding the at least one good into the bottom of the box.

40. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the second position is a support position for supporting the goods while the elevator returns to its first position.

41. (withdrawn) An apparatus for packaging goods in a box, wherein the box includes a first wall and a second wall and is supplied to the apparatus in a flat-folded configuration, the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a box erecting apparatus including a first device adapted to be in contact with the first wall, and a second device adapted to be in contact with the second wall, wherein the second device is displaceable from a first position, which is adjacent to the first device, to a second position, thereby unfolding the box; and
- (b) an elevator apparatus adapted to transport the goods between the first device and the second device in the second position.

42. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the first device comprises at least one pin adapted to hold the first wall in place when the second device displaces from the first position to the second position.

43. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the first device further comprises a magazine for storing boxes in the flat-folded configuration.

44. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the second device comprises at least one suction cup adapted to attach to the second wall and to maintain attachment as the second device displaces from the first position to the second position.

45. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a flap-folding mechanism adapted to fold the flaps of the box when the box is positioned directly above the elevator apparatus.

46. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the box erecting apparatus is located directly above the elevator apparatus.

47. (withdrawn) A method for packaging goods in a box, wherein the box includes a first wall and a second wall, the method comprising:

(a) presenting to a first device the first wall of the box as the second wall is attached to a second device and the box exists in a flat-folded configuration;

- (b) contacting the first wall with the first device;
- (c) moving the first device to a displaced position to move the first wall away from the second wall; and
- (d) using an elevator apparatus to transport the goods with between the second device and the first device when the first device is in the displaced position.

48. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the first wall of the box is presented to the first device while the box exists in the flat-folded configuration in a magazine.

49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising using the second device to maintain the second wall in the position it has when in the flat-folded configuration.

50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, further comprising applying suction to the first wall with the first device to attach the first wall to the first device.
